

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204391

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW, WB, US, UK, FR

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SUBJECT: ITU LISTINGS FOR BERLIN

REF: (A) BONN 12504, (B) BONN 11006, (C) GENEVA 5041

(D) USBERLIN 1316, (E) STATE 164300

1. WE HAVE CONSIDERED AGAIN ALTERNATIVES FOR WESTERN REACTION TO CHANGE IN TREATMENT OF EAST BERLIN IN ITU TELEGRAPH OFFICE LIST. WHILE TAKING ACCOUNT OF ARGUMENTS PRESENTED IN REFTELS, WE CONTINUE TO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT AUTHORIZING THE FRG TO REQUEST A CHANGE OF THE WEST BERLIN LISTING TO "RFA, BERLIN." DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT INSERTION OF DISCLAIMER (PARA 4, REF B) WOULD BE SUFFICIENT REACTION TO CHANGE FOR EAST BERLIN PROPOSED BY GDR.

2. WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE STRONG FEELINGS HELD ON THIS SUBJECT BY ALLIES AND FRG AND OF THE FACT THAT ITU DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CHANGES TO TELEGRAPHIC OFFICE LIST

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IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING. FOR THESE REASONS, WE ARE PREPARED TO JOIN ALLIED AND BONN GROUP CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF SUGGESTING CHANGE OF WEST BERLIN LISTINGS TO "RFA, BERLIN" IF THIS CONTINUES TO BE STRONG DESIRE OF BRITISH AND FRENCH.

3. BEFORE JOINING SUCH A CONSENSUS, HOWEVER, WE WISH TO MAKE CLEAR THE REASONS FOR OUR HESITATION IN DOING SO. DURING TRIPARTITE DISCUSSION, US REP SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. IDENTIFYING WEST BERLIN UNDER FRG HEADING CANNOT BUT BE PROVOCATIVE TO SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS. MOST LIKELY REACTION WILL NOT BE TO WITHDRAW PROPOSED CHANGE FOR EAST BERLIN, BUT TO PROTEST STRONGLY. THIS COULD LEAD ALLIES INTO UNPRODUCTIVE EXCHANGE ALONG LINES OF UN DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK AFFAIR. IN LIGHT OF BERLIN-RELATED PROBLEMS ALREADY ANTICIPATED IN ITU FREQUENCY CONFERENCE, INITIATION OF SUCH AN EXCHANGE AT THIS POINT IS CLEARLY NOT IN ALLIED INTEREST.

B. IN LIGHT OF FACT THAT EAST BERLIN IS ALREADY LISTED UNDER GDR HEADING IN OTHER ITU PUBLICATIONS (REF B)
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WE ARE NOT PERSUADED BY ARGUMENT OF UK REP (PARA 2, REF A) THAT FAILURE TO CHANGE WEST BERLIN LISTING WOULD EITHER BE "DEMONSTRATING WEAKNESS" OR "LOSING A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL POINT." INSERTION OF A DISCLAIMER WOULD DEMONSTRATE ALLIED DETERMINATION NOT TO LET MATTER PASS UNCHALLENGED AND WOULD ADEQUATELY PROTECT WESTERN POSITION.

C. AS SUGGESTED BY USBER (REF D), IN VIEW OF THE UPCOMING ITU CONFERENCE, WE SHOULD BE SURE OF THE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR LEGAL VIEW OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY IN WEST BERLIN BEFORE AUTHORIZING A CHANGE IN AN OFFICIAL ITU PUBLICATION WHICH COULD BE USED AGAINST US BY THE GDR

AND SOVIETS IN THE FUTURE. AT A MINIMUM, WE BELIEVE
THAT TEXT OF PROPOSED DISCLAIMER SHOULD BE EXAMINED,
AS SUGGESTED BY USBR, TO ENSURE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE THAT
SUCH PROBLEMS WILL NOT ARISE. INGERSOLL

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